



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

January 21, 2019

Each week, the Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up will feature hashtags and/or tweets (follow us at [@fundNIH](#)) suggested by members of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) advocacy community. We encourage all readers who are active on social media to use these messages, and we welcome suggestions from the community for future issues of the Weekly Round Up. Here is this week's featured tweet:

National Institutes of Health @NIH January 8

Practicing [#mindfulness](#) may help you to reduce stress and anxiety. Learn more about this ancient practice and how you can be mindful every day:
newsinhealth.nih.gov/2012/01/mindfulness-matters [#NIH](#) [#NIHhealthy2020](#)

House Republicans Inquire on Alzheimer's Disease Progress

House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-Ore.), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Ranking Member Brett Guthrie (R-Ky.), and Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Michael Burgess, MD (R-Texas) [sent a January 16 letter](#) to Director of the NIH's National Institute on Aging (NIA) Richard J. Hodes, MD, requesting information on how NIA is "cultivating innovation" in research to advance Alzheimer's Disease treatments and cures. The lawmakers sent similar letters to [Health and Human Services \(HHS\) Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation Brenda Destro](#), and [Director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Robert R. Redfield, MD](#).

NCI *Bottom Line* Blog Post on FY 2020 Funding Increase

NCI Director Norman Sharpless, MD, authored a [January 16 edition of NCI's *Bottom Line* blog](#) to update the NCI community on passage of the FY 2020 spending bill, including how NCI plans to use its budget increase of nearly \$300 million. Dr. Sharpless shared his thanks to Congress for the continued support of cancer research and noted that the additional funding in FY 2020 will go towards building upon existing research advances by increasing funds devoted to extramural research, increasing paylines, and restoring commitments to noncompeting grants.

NIDA Director Testifies at House Cannabis Policies Hearing

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Director Nora Volkow, MD, testified at a [January 15 hearing titled "Cannabis Policies for the New Decade"](#) before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. [In her opening statement](#), Dr. Volkow described the known adverse health effects of cannabis and its therapeutic potential. She also outlined barriers to increased research on Schedule I substances and cannabis specifically,

including obtaining and modifying Schedule I registrations, having only one source of cannabis for research purposes, and lack of access to products sold at state marijuana dispensaries. Dr. Volkow concluded, "Rigorous research is essential for understanding how the changing cannabis landscape will affect public health, for guiding evidence-based policy and to help advance therapeutics."

Nature Cancer: NCI Leadership Discusses Future of Cancer Research

National Cancer Institute (NCI) Director Ned Sharpless, MD, and NCI Principal Deputy Director Douglas Lowy, MD, participated in a [Nature Cancer Q&A published January 13](#) which touched on several topics. Dr. Sharpless discussed his career path, philosophy in leading NCI, priorities for the Institute, and the challenges and opportunities for young investigators resulting from an increasingly interdisciplinary research environment. Dr. Lowy touched on defining moments in his career as an independent researcher, how to improve translation of research findings to the clinic, and advice for early stage investigators.

NHLBI Chief of Staff to Become PCORI Executive Director

On January 15, the [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(PCORI\) announced](#) Nakela Cook, MD, MPH, as its next executive director. Dr. Cook currently serves as a Senior Scientific Officer and Chief of Staff for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), and is described in PCORI's announcement as, "A cardiologist with a distinguished career leading key research initiatives engaging patients, clinicians and other health care stakeholders." Dr. Cook will begin her role at PCORI on April 15.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

NIH NSABB Meeting – January 23-24

The National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB), a federal advisory committee, will meet January 23-24 to discuss sharing information about research involving enhanced potential pandemic pathogens and other items. The meeting in Bethesda, MD, is open to the public and will be webcast. A link to pre-register and view draft agendas is on [the meeting website](#).

OSTP Extends Deadline for Comments on the American Research Environment – January 28

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) [recently extended](#) the deadline for a [request for information](#) (RFI) on the American Research Environment originally published in the Federal Register. On behalf of the Joint Committee on the Research Environment (JCORE), OSTP seeks comments on "actions that Federal agencies can take, working in partnership with private industry, academic institutions, and non-profit/philanthropic organizations, to maximize the quality and effectiveness of the American research environment." Comments are due by January 28 via email to the National Science and Technology Council Executive Director, Chloe Kontos at JCORE@ostp.eop.gov.

New **Film Screening of *Jim Allison: Breakthrough* – January 29**

Please join ACT for NIH Foundation as they host a reception and private screening of Jim Allison: Breakthrough, a film about the Nobel Laureate's work in cancer immunotherapy. The event will take place on Wednesday, January 29, from 5:30-8:00pm in the Madison Building at the Library of Congress. RSVP by January 22, 2020, to RSVP@ACTforNIH.org. Please indicate if you are attending the reception, the screening, or both. Please see the [event flyer](#) for additional details.

NIH to Host Workshop on NHP Models and Charting the Path Forward – February 18-19

The [NIH plans to convene a workshop](#) on the "unique challenges and important generalizable lessons in terms of science, welfare, and ethics" of research on non-human primates (NHPs) on February 18-19. The workshop will "identify emergent challenges facing the conduct, reproducibility, and translation of rigorous research when working with NHP models and discuss strategies for addressing these challenges, including building on or augmenting current best practices." Logistical details will be forthcoming, and the workshop will be available by videocast.

New **Reeve Summit 2020 – February 26-28**

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is hosting its first national conference in Washington, DC, February 26-28. Reeve Summit 2020 will bring together those who have had an extraordinary impact on the lives of people with paralysis and related disabilities, including 300 community members, health professionals and caregivers, and will include powerful keynotes, educational sessions, and opportunities to connect with those who are changing the culture and reality of spinal cord injury. Please contact Kim Beer at kbeer@christopherreeve.org with any questions about the conference. Registration and more information can be found [on the event website](#).

New **Congressional Briefing on Glaucoma Research and Practice – February 26**

Please join the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research as they co-host a congressional briefing titled, "The Impact of Federal Funding on Glaucoma Research and Clinical Practice." The briefing will take place on Wednesday, February 26, from 12:00-1:15pm in 2045 Rayburn House Office Building. [Please see attached flyer](#) for additional details, and RSVP to Dina Beaumont at 202-407-8325 or dinabeau@aol.com.

NLM Requesting Information on ClinicalTrials.gov Modernization – March 14

The NIH's [National Library of Medicine \(NLM\)](#) is requesting comments on its multi-year plans to modernize [ClinicalTrials.gov](#), which "enhances transparency across the clinical research enterprise" and "helps enhance public trust in clinical research." The modernization initiative aims to "update the technological infrastructure underlying ClinicalTrials.gov, enhance its public-facing components, and deliver a modern user experience with a platform and services that continue to accommodate growth and enhance efficiency." Comments must be submitted electronically by March 14. Additionally, NLM will host a public meeting on April 30 to elicit further comments.

New Social Science Advocacy Day – March 30-31

Please join the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) as they hold their annual, coordinated advocacy day in support of all of the social and behavioral sciences. Social Science Advocacy Day brings together social scientists and other science advocates from across the country to engage with policymakers in Washington, DC. The two-day event includes in-depth training and logistical support (including scheduling meetings with Congressional offices and providing an on-call expert to answer your day-of policy questions), as well as polished, up-to-date materials to help you bring your message to Capitol Hill. [Visit the event website](#) for more information and to register.

NIH Regional Seminar in Baltimore, MD: April 20-22, 2020

The NIH is hosting the Spring 2020 NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration in Baltimore, MD, from April 20-22. [Visit the meeting website](#) to learn more about the program and to register; early bird registration rates apply through December 31.

Job Postings

The Myositis Association Seeks Director, Communications & Research

The Myositis Association is seeking a new Director of Communications & Research's to raise the visibility of TMA and myositis diseases among key audiences and to position TMA as the "go to" organization/source for information, research and clinical trial updates, and support resources and services for the myositis patient, care partner, and medical community. [Please visit the job posting](#) to learn more and to apply.

APS Seeks Science Policy Analyst

The American Physiological Society seeks a Science Policy Analyst to develop and implement advocacy strategies on issues related to animal research, research funding, and other policy issues. Please review the [position description](#) carefully. You may apply by visiting <https://www.faseb.org/About-FASEB/Careers.aspx> or by emailing a cover letter, resume, and policy-oriented writing sample to resumes@faseb.org.

ASBMB Seeks Federal Affairs Manager

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) seeks a Manager, Federal Affairs to join the Public Affairs team. The federal manager will assist in the development and execution of ASBMB public affairs programs with respect to federal science funding agencies; help manage Public Affairs Advisory Committee operations, and work closely with ASBMB public affairs leadership in developing, articulating, communicating and implementing public policy positions on behalf of ASBMB. Visit the [posting of the full job description](#) to learn more and review application instructions.